

# THE TIE that binds

## January 2019



Blessings to you and yours in the coming year!

*At the sound of the tolling midnight bell  
a brand new year will begin.*

*Let's raise our hopes in a confident toast,  
to the promise it ushers in.*

*May your battles be few, your pleasures many,  
your wishes and dreams fulfilled.*

*May your confidence stand in the face of loss  
and give you the strength to rebuild.*

*May peace of heart fill all your days  
may serenity grace your soul.*

*May tranquil moments bless your life  
and keep your spirit whole.*

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## Pastor's Page



### Advent to Christmas to Epiphany

As we begin the journey of a New Year together, let me offer a word of deep gratitude for the many hands and hearts that helped make this holiday season so rich and full of blessing. For the offering of your gifts to the church and to me personally, for the strong sign of participation in all of our worship services, for the faithful ministry you shared with me and one another, may you know how grateful I am to all our members and friends. Through the sadness of recent losses and the promise of ongoing celebrations, may we continue to be the people God calls us to be, and may the light of Epiphany shine on the world through us.

### Gathering for New Members

This month we will hold an informal gathering for anyone interested in joining the church, sharing information and personal stories of faith. In the coming weeks we will vote to receive new members into the congregation and then extend the Right Hand of Fellowship one Sunday during worship. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to me. I look forward to welcoming new friends into our journey of faith and ministry.

### Adult Class

Thank you to all who shared in our series, "Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph." As classes resume, we will return to our series, "Uppity Women of the Bible." Our next sessions will include the stories of Song of Songs, Esther and Judith. All are welcome to drop in or join us each Sunday that we meet.

### Books We Have Recently Shared

*"Listen to the Silent Night"* by Dandi Daley Mackall

*"Home by Another Way"* by Barbara Brown Taylor

# *Christmas Flower Donations*

## *2018*

*In Memory of Dina Umvysz Forever in our hearts*  
*Given by: Mom, Dad and Tommy*

*In Memory of lost loved ones*  
*In Honor of Lauren Brant*  
*Given by: Barbara Brant*

*In Memory of Steven Straub*  
*Given by: Peggy Straub*

*In Memory of Jim and Denise Baird*  
*Given by: Marilyn and Karen Baird*

*In Memory of my sister, Frances Holman*  
*Given by: Jane Imdahl*

*In Memory of loved ones who have passed away*  
*Given by: Gail Neff*

*In Memory of our dad Ted Ackley*  
*Given by: Yvette and Peg Ackley*

*In Honor of all of their grandchildren*  
*Given by: Portia & Charley Freeman*

*In Memory of Mr. Ng Yat Kwond, Uncle Joe and Aunt Winnie*  
*Given by: The Lew Family*

*In Honor of Donna & Tim Wong, Chan Ham and Ko Kwong*  
*Given by: The Wong Family*

*In Memory of Lois and Earle Rowley, Becky, Marion, and C.D. Chambers*  
*Given by: Carol and Dave Rowley*

*In Memory of Kristin Greene*  
*Given by: Joseph Greene*

*To give thanks to family that are friends and friends that are family*  
*Given by: John and Marilyn Rodearmel*

*In Memory of Lester Jordan*  
*Given by: his family*

*In Honor of Len Lun Niang*  
*Given by: The Liu Family*

*In Memory of Garold Benson, Harley Osgood, John & Marjorie McGraw*  
*Given by: Marilyn and Gary Benson*

*In Memory of Loved Ones, Parents, Grandson and Brother*  
*Given by: Jerry & Joan Watkins*

*In Memory of Grandpa Tom, Grandma Floss, Grandpa Bob, and Grandma Fots*  
*Given by: Austin and his family*



## **JANUARY MINISTERS**

**Communion:** Prepare: Gail Neff & Peg Straub

Serve: : Peg Straub  
Gail Neff  
Carol Gatlin  
Bob Land

Assist Pastor: Barbara Brant

**Lay Leader:**

06 – Anita Fernald  
13– Becky Ffreeman  
20– Dave Rowley  
27 - Alex Lew

## **FEBRUARY MINISTERS**

**Communion:** Prepare: Carol & Dave Rowley

Serve: Carol & Dave Rowley  
Cathy Greenfield  
Richard Tourjee

Assist Pastor: Catherine Hiller

**Lay Leader**

03– Marilyn Rodearmel  
10 - Dennis Piscitello  
17 - Richard Tourjee  
24 - Mei Ling Liu





## **JANUARY**

02 – William Deveau  
02 – Noelle Butler  
03—Joshua Boyle  
04 – Mackenzie Ackley  
05 – Eric Bianchi  
05 – Ronald Land  
06 – Sarah Adams  
07 – Pete Wong  
08 – Pete Deveau  
09 – Barbara Bellefleur  
13 – Emma Martel  
15 – Patti Crooks  
15 – Adam Greene  
15 - Matthew Greene  
16 – Jackie Dorobkowski  
17 - Go Tuang  
18 – Richard Tourjee, Sr.  
22 – Libby Ribarich  
25 – Pebbles Quibble  
31 – Candy Zeppieri

## **FEBRUARY**

01 – Gary Benson  
14- Yvette Ackley  
14 -Sandy Vocolina  
18 - Celia Lew  
20 – Ronald Tourjee  
20 – Donna McLaughlin  
27 – Richard Bassett



**Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 7, 2019**

Our moderator, Catherine Hiller, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, and she led us in devotions.

Catherine also reminded the council that our annual meeting is next month, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and we will meet the following night as a council.

Heidi reviewed the minutes from last month's meeting in full, due to a number of absences at the December meeting and to the amount of information necessary for upcoming events and annual meeting preparation.

**Treasurer**

- Cash Flow Detail handout filed with minutes.

**Pastor's Report**—Pastor absent—nothing to report

**Deacon and Committee Reports:**

**Building/Grounds:** Alex Lew & Brian Berry (absent)

- In following up from the previous meeting, Alex sent an email to Groton Utilities about the parking lot light and has not heard back yet.
- The snowplow contract issue from the previous meeting has been resolved: a new contract has been signed and our price will be \$115 per plowing required, and this price will double if the snow is over a certain amount.

**Safe Church Committee:** Dave Rowley

- Next Sunday, Dave has lined up a plan with Alex and Brian to do an outdoor walk-around starting at 11:00am, and anyone is invited to join. They will identify things that will bolster the safety of our church property in terms of our own members' safety more so than intruders as has been the primary focus of the committee.

**Pastoral Relations Committee:** Darrell Tootell

- The PRC spent time discussing Claudine's proposed salary increase, and this will be discussed in more detail under the budget for new business.

**Education & Discipleship:** Li Ling Liu and Dianne Dellarco (absent)

- The committee reported that they are still working with the kids in Sunday school story and music time, learning how to deal with varying attention spans to benefit the children of our church in their Christian education.
- Holly noted that she and Claudine will soon be going to a meeting about the Co-Op Youth Group.

**Mission & Outreach:** Holly Boyle and Carol Gatlin (absent)

- No report

**Worship & Membership:** Peggy Straub and Barbara Brant

- There will be a New Members' meeting this Sunday
- The committee is still exploring options for a new organist/choir director, including conducting an interview with a potential candidate this upcoming Sunday.

**Hospitality:** Sandy Vocolina and Marilyn Benson

- Both deacons absent; no report

### **Nominating:** Pat Tootell

- One more position has been filled since the last meeting: Portia Freeman will be coming on as a deacon for Worship & Membership. Pat is still looking for someone to fill the positions of Finance & Stewardship and Benevolence.
- Darrell will be stepping down as chair of the PRC, and Sue Shontell will be taking his place as the chair.
- Pat may fill the position of Finance & Stewardship if necessary, with the help of a fantastic Finance committee!

### **Old Business:**

#### Parking

- After bringing up the issue of a lack of parking on Sunday mornings, the council had discussed asking Groton Utilities if we could have people park in their lot. Barbara emailed Groton Utilities to ask, and has not yet heard back.
- A number of cars parked there for the funeral this morning and had no issues.
- Richard noted that many years ago, the council went to the town and they gave us permission to park on their property, and as far as he knows that has not changed.

### **New Business:**

TVCCA inspected the rental property, and the inspection passed. The church will continue to receive funding from the state, with no change in the amount.

#### Budget: Dave Rowley (and Richard Tourjee)

- Dave first asked the question if anyone has been contacted about the auditing process. Pat said that Rick is the official auditor, so that would be his discretion. Mei Ling has been meeting with him quarterly, and they'll meet sometime this month. Dave will contact Rick to tell him to get the auditing process started.
  - As the council is aware, the PRC conducted a congregational evaluation of our pastor this past year. Similar evaluations have been conducted in the past but it had been a number of years. At the last PRC meeting, some discussions came up that Dave wanted to bring to the attention of the council before discussing the proposed budget:
- ◇ MMBB sends out guidelines for compensating pastors, and the PRC has used those guidelines to put together what they feel is appropriate for Claudine's compensation.
  - ◇ Dave quoted the following from these guidelines: "Merit Increase: A merit increase is as much a boost to your pastor as a raise would be to you in your job. It is a very effective way to say 'good job, we appreciate your work here, we love you, we care about your needs and dreams.' If at all possible, such decisions should be made on merit alone with no eye looking at budget or current income."
  - ◇ The PRC thought about this when deciding to propose not only a cost of living increase but also a merit increase. This was largely due to the success of the evaluations, which were overwhelmingly positive. Claudine was scored in a number of different ministry categories on a scale from 1 to 5. Out of all the evaluations that were returned, Claudine received no 1s, 2s or 3s. She received 25 4s and 627 5s. Dave and the PRC are very proud of her, as is the council he is sure, and for this reason the PRC is requesting her raise.

- Dave then passed out the paperwork for the projected 2019 income. He drew the council's attention to the fact that the tag sale and holiday bazaar projected incomes are estimated at a lower amount than we brought in this year, so hopefully we will exceed this amount. The reality could be more or less than this amount, but these are reasonable estimates.
- Dave then passed out the proposed operating budget for 2019, and the council reviewed it line by line. Dave drew the council's attention to places where there had been significant change, and the council discussed any questions that came up.
- Mei Ling reported to Dave that the church's account has enough holdover money from this year to offset the planned budget increase.
- Barbara moved that we accept the Proposed 2019 Operating Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee. Alex seconded the motion. Discussion was held. A vote was held and the motion was carried, approving the budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Note: with council membership changing officially with the upcoming annual meeting, this was the final council meeting for Ron Land, Peggy Straub, and Darrell Tootell who are all stepping away from council positions. The council thanks them for their dedicated service!

Next meeting is February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Heidi Butler, Church Clerk



# Camp Wightman Spring Work Weekend

Saturday & Sunday,

April 26-27, 2019  
Fun, Work, Food,  
and Fellowship

We will take on some necessary projects and light  
the first campfire of the 2019 camping season.

Arrive Saturday morning by 9am--finish up Sun-  
day by 3pm

Call or email your interest.

860-376-2179

[campwightman@abcconn.org](mailto:campwightman@abcconn.org)





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# Youth News

## RSVP'ing!

I hope everyone had a great break for the holidays, and is going to have a stellar 2019! I just want to remind everyone that it is **essential** for me to receive RSVP's for our events in advance so that I can properly prepare and have the correct number of adults and cars if we are driving somewhere. I understand life gets busy so I try to keep the forms as short as possible. If you realize you can no longer attend, please text me at 860-389-3904—thank you!

### Youth Meetings

This year our regular youth group meeting will take place the third Sunday of every month from 4-6pm. We will rotate churches each month. Here is our rotation schedule:

January 13th - Noank Baptist Church  
February 17th - Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church  
March 17th - Union Baptist Church  
April 21st - Noank Baptist Church  
May 19th - Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

*Go to Courtney's email to respond to these invitations: [youthcoopdirector@gmail.com](mailto:youthcoopdirector@gmail.com)*

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### **RESCHEDULED: *Bowling at High Rollers Luxury Lanes***

Saturday, January 26th 2-4pm  
(Meet at 1:30 if you need a ride at UBC)

*Let's start off the new year with some indoor fun! Join the group for some bowling at High Rollers Luxury Lanes at Foxwoods. If you haven't been— this is an awesome experience. We will have some snacks and friendly competition. Bring \$17 to cover shoe rental and two games of bowling.*

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Nightwatch at St. John the Divine Cathedral  
Friday February 1-2, 2019

Please mark your calendars for this year's trip to Nightwatch. This year we will be participating in the Interspiritual version of the retreat. This will give us a chance to explore other faith traditions in a beautiful setting. I hope to have a bigger group this year, because it is an amazing evening. We will spend some time in the city afterwards this time and return Saturday evening. **Registration EXTENDED 1/15/2019. Still looking for participants to make this a worthwhile trip. Trust me it is worth it!!!**

Looking Ahead  
To our  
2nd Annual  
Soup-A-Thon



Saturday, February 9th  
5:00 - 6:30pm  
PBBC Vestry

We are looking for 10 soup makers!  
And dessert makers!

If you can help please see  
Cathy Greenfield, Barbara Brant  
Or Peg Straub

We plan to feature 10 different soups  
plus bread and dessert.

\$10 donation

For more info please call  
860-445-6126

## A Little Church Humor

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(See Genesis 3)

12-30-2013

REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU  
MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?

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Thanks to Dad Hengge (See Genesis 3)

01-03-2000

OUR RESOLUTION LAST YEAR COULD HAVE BEEN  
"LESS FRUIT", BUT NO ... WE WENT WITH  
"TRUST PEOPLE MORE"

# CAMP ECHO

JANUARY 19-21, 2019

\$150

Ages: 6-18

Join the fun at Camp Echo to experience Camp Wightman again. Get together with old friends, meet new ones, sing, drink loads of hot chocolate, watch movies, play ping pong, enjoy camp fires & camp activities.

CHECK IN: 2 PM Sat. January 19, 2019 CHECK OUT: 10 AM Mon. January 21, 2019

To Register, Call: (860) 376-2179 /  
Email: [campwightman@outlook.com](mailto:campwightman@outlook.com)

Or Mail in Registration Camp Wightman Registration  
207 Coal Pit Hill Road □ Griswold, CT 06351 860-376-2179  
[campwightman@outlook.com](mailto:campwightman@outlook.com) [www.campwightman.org](http://www.campwightman.org)

COME JOIN OUR  
THIRTY-FIFTH SEASON



Sunday, January 20, 2019 • 3:00pm  
Harkness Chapel at Connecticut College

270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320

*Henry Mollicone:*

*Beatitude Mass: For the Homeless*

**Mystic River Chorale & Orchestra**

**Eden Casteel, soprano; Richard Weidlich, baritone**

**Frank Martignetti, Artistic Director**

Purchase tickets by calling 860.460.1487 or visit [www.mysticriverchorale.org](http://www.mysticriverchorale.org)

**SPRING CONCERT**

Sunday, May 5, 2019 • 3:30pm

Handel: *Messiah*, Parts II and III

St. Mary Mother of the Redeemer Church, Groton, CT

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church  
1241 Poquonnock Road  
Groton, CT 06340